

2020 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE FITCHBURG/GARDNER

Funded Partners: City of Fitchburg Police Department, City of Gardner Police Department, Making Opportunity Count, Mount Wachusett Community College, Shining Light Ministries, Inc., Spanish American Center

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$336,400

Strategies	Outcomes	Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	80 Received Case Management Services 79 Successfully Referred to Education Services	\$41,938
Education & Employment	91 Participated in Education Programs 12 Pursued College or Post-Secondary Training 23 Participated in Employment Programs 23 Completed a Job Training Program	\$138,485
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	48 Participated in Recreation Programs	\$56,851
Suppression	130 Hot Spot Patrols Completed 3 Law Enforcement Supported Home Visits	\$99,126

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

Youth Risk Assessments

82% LOW-RISK*	Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
16% MODERATE-RISK*	Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
2% HIGH-RISK*	Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"This youth was in our program for many years. This youth started out in one of our after-school homework centers. When he aged out, he was able to participate in our Jobs For Youth Program to work during the summer months. He had worked for the past couple of summers through our program, this year he reached out very early seeking a job. After several trips and getting his application completed, he was accepted into the job program. This youth completed the job and training program successfully. Two weeks later he shared with us that he got a new job."
~Making Opportunity Count, Inc.

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Fitchburg

Gardner

Total Population (2019 Estimate)	6,892,503	40,638	20,683
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	16.4%	15.0%
Unemployment Rate	8.0%	11.9%	10.5%
Total School Population (2019-20)	983,058	6,569	2,721
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%	66.4%	56.7%
High School Dropout Rate	1.8%	2.3%	4.1%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

Gang Activity in Fitchburg/Gardner

25

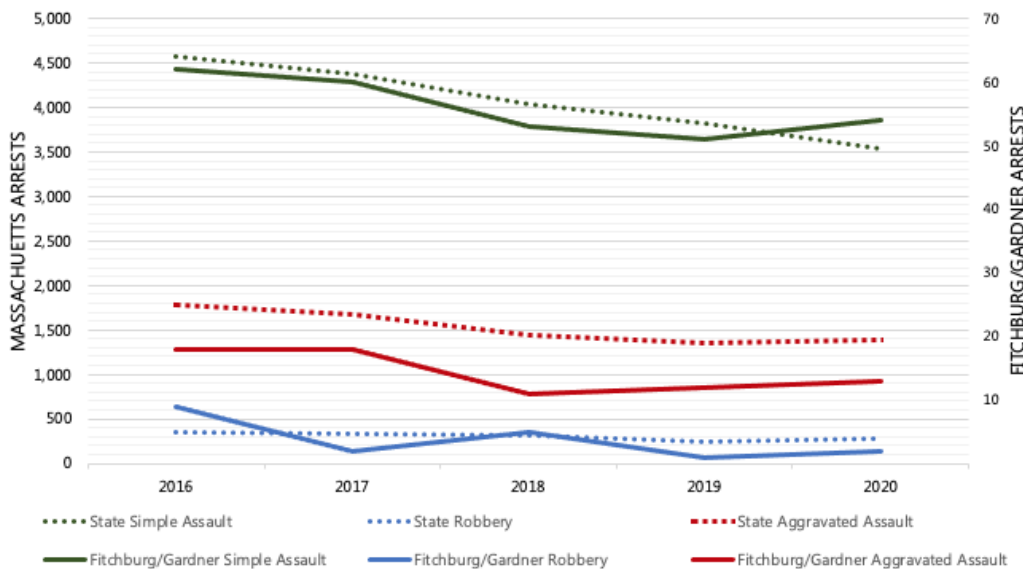
Street Gangs

23

Gang Members
Under 25

In 2020, the Fitchburg Police Department (FPD) confirmed 284 active and former gang members from 25 different gangs in the region. Roughly, 8% of the gang members were under the age of 25. In the past, gang activity in Fitchburg included weapons-related offenses, narcotics trafficking, violent offenses, and property crime. In 2020, FPD received 180 overdose calls, 13 suspected overdose-related deaths, 92 calls regarding drug activity, 36 shots fired calls, and 14 weapons-related calls.

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2016-2020

Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 23%
- Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 13%

Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 24%
- Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 78%

Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 22%
- Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 28%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, for preparing this brief.